

March 22, 1969

Dear Hal:

Just received your letter today and it was good to hear from you. As I promised I'm typing this long letter to let you know what I've learned not only from my ~~trip~~ trip to Los Angeles but other things I've been looking into.

I'll begin by referring to some points raised in your letter. As to Mike Lala and who he is. Although I don't have Paul's interview of Johann Rush (mentioned in CE1153, CD6-PP.4167-7, CD206 PP. 216-8, CD75 P. 687, CD 6, PP. 421-2 and film of Oswald in New Orleans on 8/16/63 mentioned in CD87, SS 200) my notes indicate he was a cameraman present with Rush in this incident of Oswald distributing leaflets.

As you can see from the enclosed ad in the States-Item of Nov. 13, 1968 (it also appeared on Feb. 19, 1969) Lala is currently a photographer at WDSU-TV (Channel 6) in New Orleans. I believe you should write him there for further info on the Oswald bit. If not you then perhaps Paul can. (I would but since Paul conducted the interview with Rush and has done more work in this area than anyone else perhaps it might be better for him to write. But I do believe the best course of action would be to see him in person.)

Your comments about James Earl Ray are very appropriate and, I believe, correct. My own feeling is that something (or someone) persuaded Ray to plead as he did sometime between the period of Feb. 14 and March 10. ON Feb. 14 you'll recall that there was a story to the effect that the trial scheduled to begin March 3rd was then postponed until April 7. From looking ~~in~~ at the calendar that's one calendar month exactly. If Attorney General Mitchell (advised by the former head, Clark) had intervened to get Ray's "guilty" plea entered it would take at least a month to iron things out. This is just a speculative thought on my part and certainly cannot be looked upon as fact. Isn't it customary for government lawyers to request 30-day delays, though?

By the way, there is now a pocketbook out on the Ray case known by the title, I believe, of "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray and the Conspiracy to Murder Martin Luther King". It's written by Clay Blair who works for both Time and Life. It contains Ray's plea of guilty. Blair, if I'm not mistaken once wrote something for Life on the Oswald case. My recollection is that it was Life's first biographical sketch on Oswald back in December, 1963 or possibly Life's story on the Oswald rifle and its origin.

I just this minute heard on the radio that Ray, through his new lawyer, J.B. Stoner, has denied shooting King and said he was "pressured" to enter his plea of guilty. By the way, do you know whether Huie is aware of that King plot which you showed me when you were last here? What has been done with this, anyway?

The March 18, 1969 N.O. Times-Picayune has a full page ad supporting Garrison. It was sponsored and paid for by the "Citizens of New Orleans Committee" whose chairman is Dr. Frank Minyard. What do you know of this group and do they plan on doing further work in this case?

I'm enclosing a copy of a National Enquirer story of Nov. 10, 1968 on the Ray case written by Michael Woodruff. Perhaps your friend at the Enquirer can get some more info from him.

Enclosed you'll find the photo dated March 7, 1961 (from AP) showing a Pete Ramos of the Minnesota Twins baseball team. He had "recently arrived" to the U.S. and would appear to be the "Ramos (phonetic, a baseball guy)" mentioned in your letter to Gary Schoener of 9/28/68. His name appears in connection with other Dallas names so I presume he may have info along these lines.

Incidentally, you'll recall the man who called you at the Dolan TV station when you were last here. He returned the photos I lent him concerning Rogers in Dallas. We couldn't talk for he was in a hurry to leave but he promised me he would get in touch and tell me what he had learned. Before he left he said there was little he learned but whatever it was I'll let you know. (Incidentally, I have a note that says the following: "Rogers, John P.O. Box 10707 - Ruby notebook. Same as John B. Rogers, Odio friend - Vol. 25, Page P. 369?? Texas Industries."). I'm sure this note refers to the same Rogers you're interested in but haven't checked the volumes on it.

Enclosed you'll find a copy of an article on the autopsy report prepared by that three-man panel plus a brief biography of the three men involved.

Other items of interest included are the following: four articles referring to a Jose Diaz Morejon (re: the exile attack on ships led by a group known as "Cuban Power"); two typed memos on Shaw (with my comments); article on Fresno doctor (Gary Fogg) who arrived a little late to Parkland to attend JFK (see my comments); articles on Henry Delaune, relative of Chetta; article on McIntire; and a copy of a letter to a Mr. Gaetjanes.

On this last letter to Gaetjanes, I believe it worth while for you to write him even though he never responded to my letter. If there is any truth to the rumor (not spelled out in the letter but told to me by the Joe mentioned in the letter) that Shaw had a secret bank account in Haiti. Gaetjanes was with DeMohrenschildt on Nov. 22, 1963 at a party for various Haitian officials and DeMohrenschildt had made some comments about JFK.

I believe I pointed this out to you before but with respect to DeMohrenschildt, the volumes prove he lied about Oswald for in a letter he wrote to the Auchincloss family from Haiti on Dec. 12, 1963 he wrote that he had never seen Oswald since November, 1962 yet, in fact, he saw Oswald since then since he talked with him on the morning after the April, 1963 attempt on Walker's life.

Now about my trip to Los Angeles, I'm enclosing two items which relates to that trip. One deals with the Zapruder film and the other deals with my phone conversation with Christian.

Regarding the Z-film please make sure that this report by Fred does not get circulated by mail and don't tell Fred that you have it. His analysis is from a dupe copy which now is probably in Marcus possession. Please keep this paragraph strictly confidential.

As you can see from my phone conversation with Christian (incidentally, if you write him don't tell him that his conversation was taped) he managed to get the Z-film on Channel 5 in L.A. and was very cagey about the use of Alfie in connection with the film. I wasn't able to establish what relationship he had with Hepburn, either. My guess on where he obtained the film for the TV-station was from a friend of Jaffe, who is a Bobby Kennedy friend (Dick Lubic). Lubic once was with Life as an associate editor. (This info also con-

fidetiaal - for your use only). Lubic allegedly had film in his home but it was stolen, if you can believe the rumor. (Interesting to note that the film was stolen from Life in Feb., 1967 for 8 days and then returned if you can believe Christian).

You asked about Jim Rose. I learned little about Rose from my trip to L.A. I know that Paul now has a photograph of Rose and Fred Newcomb wanted to get a copy so that he could make a photo comparison. I haven't had the chance to ~~discuss~~ discuss this with him, yet. Will do so when I see him next.

You wrote to Paul Hoch and asked for a copy of a photo of Vosjoly ("the Topaz guy") ~~MENT~~ mentioned in the Hepburn affair. Jim Schmitt located a Philippe Thyraud de ~~Vosj~~ Vosjoli in Life's issue of April 26, 1968. From Jim's notes, he is 4'5", bald, and 47 years old. Between 1951 and 1963 he was chief of French Intelligence in the U.S.

By the way when I visited Eason a few days ago he told me that he had spoken to Bill Turner about the Hepburn book. Turner told him Hepburn was Lamarre and that the book might be an attempt to embarrass American oil interests in favor of French inter~~ests~~ests. Turner also told Eason that Hepburn (Lamarre) was with French Intelligence in Indo-China.

Almost forgot to tell you about my meeting with Turner of several weeks ago. He told me that he had once spoken to Thornley's girl-friend whom he once lived with and that she told Turner that Thornley picked up money from a post office box. He also mentioned what you told me about Thornley having a post office box on the other side of town. This girl-friend said that when Oswald's name appeared in the newspapers that Thornley said to her: "He wasn't really left-wing- he was more our (kind of) guy." (I wasn't sure when the stories on Oswald appeared - before or after the assassination. My recollection is that it was before since Thornley had taken this girl-friend to an anti-Castro meeting which was in a clothing store on Decatur Street in New Orleans. (although the reference here is probably Bringuier's place his name was not mentioned)).

Some other things that Turner said to me were that John Christian had mentioned to him that Bradley had been "checked out" by the FBI in October, 1963. (In looking over the transcript of my phone conversation with John of 2/23/69 enclosed, note that Bradley's name appears in the very beginning of my talk. Although it isn't in the transcript the other name of the trinity was Drennan).

Turner related to me that Nixon's Urban Affairs man, Moynihan, who is a Johnson holdover, may have helped to write Hepburn's book. Whether this is true or not Turner said that when Ramparts contacted him to find out if this were true, he "turned tail and fled." Another rumor that Turner passed along was one having Bobby Kennedy "seeding" the Hepburn book to the sum ~~of \$10,000~~ of \$10,000. I gathered from this that he meant both the film and the book. (A little hard to believe when you realize the film is hardly one to put Kennedy in a good light showing all the alleged women he was cavorting with).

Well, I do have more to write you but now must attend to some personal affairs. However, you will probably get a letter shortly because by then I'll have met with "the fat jap".

Hope all this keeps you posted on the latest and that it can come in useful for your purposes.

Best, in the meantime,

*Hal*  
Hal

P.S.

In case you should want to write to some of the names discussed in my letter here are the addresses and phone numbers:

(1) DR. FRANK MINYARD — LISTED IN December, 1968 New Orleans Telephone Directory at:

OFC CALIF COMPANY BLDG --- #522-4364  
OFC 13152 CHF MNTNR HWY --- #254-9032  
IF NO ANSWER DIAL ---- #523-4563

(2) DR. GARY R. FOGG — Listed in Fresno, Nov. 1968 Telephone Directory as:

MD OPHTHAMOLOGIST  
1053 R --- #266-0547  
RES 1527 E. STUART AVE --- #439-7836